UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/CONF.167/PC/L.6
8 September 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE
GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON THE
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF
SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING
STATES
First session
30 August-10 September 1993

DRAFT REPORT OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES ON ITS FIRST SESSION

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Preparatory Committee held its first session at United Nations Headquarters from 30 August to 10 September 1993. The Committee held ... meetings (4th to meetings) and several informal meetings.

2. The session was opened by the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee.

3. At the 4th meeting, on 30 August, the Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development made an introductory statement.

B. Attendance

4. The following States were represented: Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Cape Verde, China, Colombia, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Holy See, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kiribati, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sri Lanka,

Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

5. The following United Nations bodies and programmes were represented: United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Population Fund, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and United Nations International Drug Control Programme.

6. The Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific were represented.

7. The following specialized agencies were represented: International Labour Organisation, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, International Telecommunication Union and United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

8. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: Caribbean Community, Commission of the European Communities, Commonwealth Secretariat and South Pacific Regional Environment Programme.

C. Election of officers

9. At its organizational session, the Preparatory Committee had elected the Chairman and four Vice-Chairmen. The Bureau of the organizational session had decided to give the additional responsibility of Rapporteur to one of the Vice-Chairmen. The officers for the first session were as follows:

Chairman: Penelope Wensley (Australia)

Vice-Chairmen: Takao Shibata (Japan)
Marian Dinu (Romania)
José Luis Jesus (Cape Verde)
John Ashe (Antigua and Barbuda)

Rapporteur: Takao Shibata (Japan)

10. At the 9th meeting, on 1 September, the Preparatory Committee elected, by acclamation, Mr. Jon Barac (Romania), as Vice-Chairman to replace Mr. Marian Dinu (Romania) who had resigned.

D. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

11. At the 4th meeting, on 30 August, the Preparatory Committee adopted the provisional agenda contained in document A/CONF.167/PC/5 (see annex below).

12. At the same meeting, the Chairman orally revised the programme of work contained in document A/CONF.167/PC/5/Corr.1. The Preparatory Committee then adopted the programme of work, as orally revised.

II. PREPARATIONS FOR THE FIRST GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES ON THE BASIS OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 47/189 AND TAKING INTO ACCOUNT OTHER RELEVANT GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS

A. Activities of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and other bodies of relevance to the preparatory process related to the sustainable development needs of small island developing States in the light of relevant recommendations of Agenda 21

III. CONSIDERATION OF PLANS AND PROGRAMMES TO SUPPORT THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES AND THE UTILIZATION OF THEIR MARINE AND COASTAL RESOURCES, WHICH INCLUDES MEETING ESSENTIAL HUMAN NEEDS, MAINTAINING BIODIVERSITY, AND IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ISLAND PEOPLE, AS WELL AS MEASURES THAT WILL ENABLE SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES TO COPE EFFECTIVELY, CREATIVELY AND IN A SUSTAINABLE MANNER WITH ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES AND TO MITIGATE THE IMPACTS ON AND REDUCE THE THREATS POSED TO MARINE AND COASTAL RESOURCES

13. The Preparatory Committee considered agenda items 2 (a) and 3 at its 4th to ... meetings, from 31 August to ... September. It had before it the reports of the Secretary-General on the overview of system-wide activities relevant to General Assembly resolution 47/189 (A/CONF.167/PC/6), on the activities of the Conference secretariat and other matters (A/CONF.167/PC/9) and on the sustainable development of small island developing States (A/CONF.167/PC/10 and Corr.1).

14. The Preparatory Committee held a general discussion of the items at its 4th to 10th meetings, from 31 August to 2 September.

15. At the 4th meeting, on 30 August, the Director of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development made an introductory statement.

16. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Colombia (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77), Vanuatu (on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States), Belgium (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Economic Community) and Antigua and Barbuda.

17. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Preparatory Committee made a statement in response to a question raised by the representative of Papua New Guinea.

18. At the 5th meeting, on 30 August, statements were made by the representatives of Australia, Barbados, the Marshall Islands, Italy, Canada, the United States of America, New Zealand, Fiji and Japan.

19. At the 6th meeting, on 31 August, statements were made by the representatives of Israel, Mauritius, China, the Federated States of Micronesia, Romania, Cook Islands, Trinidad and Tobago and Kiribati.

20. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representative of the World Health Organization and the representative of the International Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

21. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme made a statement.

22. At the 7th meeting, on 31 August, statements were made by the representatives of Argentina, Cuba, Jamaica and Brazil.

23. At the same meeting, the representative of the International Labour Organisation made a statement. The representatives of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the United Nations Environment Programme made statements.

24. At the same meeting, the observer for the Caribbean Conservation Association, a non-governmental organization accredited to participate in the deliberations of the Preparatory Committee, made a statement.

25. At the 8th meeting, on 1 September, statements were made by the representatives of Tonga, Maldives, Malta, the Solomon Islands, Benin and Cape Verde.

26. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Telecommunication Union. The representative of the United Nations Development Programme made a statement.

27. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the Intergovernmental Committee on the Convention on Biological Diversity of the United Nations Environment Programme made a statement.

28. At the 9th meeting, on 1 September, statements were made by the representatives of Iceland (on behalf of the Nordic countries), the Bahamas, Sierra Leone, Seychelles, Papua New Guinea, Venezuela, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Sao Tome and Principe and Grenada.

29. At the same meeting, the observer for the Commonwealth Secretariat made a statement.

30. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the International Ocean Institute, the O Le Siosiomaga Society Inc., the Solomon Islands Development Trust, the Forum of African Voluntary Development (Guinea-Bissau) and the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, non-governmental organizations accredited to participate in the deliberations of the Preparatory Committee.

31. At the 10th meeting, on 2 September, statements were made by the representatives of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Austria, Samoa, Mexico, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Ecuador.

32. At the same meeting, the representatives of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the World Bank made statements.

33. Also at the same meeting, the representative of regional commissions made a statement.

34. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the World Association of Former United Nations Interns and Fellows and the Caribbean Conservation Association, non-governmental organizations accredited to participate in the deliberations of the Preparatory Committee.

35. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of New Zealand, Australia, Belgium (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Economic Community), Kiribati, Canada, Vanuatu, France, the United States of America, Iceland and Cuba, in connection with the report of the Secretary-General on the overview of system-wide activities relevant to General Assembly resolution 47/189 (A/CONF.167/PC/6).

36. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the representative of the International Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO.

37. At the 13th meeting, on 8 September, the representative of Colombia (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China) introduced a document entitled "Position of the Group of 77 and China on basic elements for an action programme for the sustainable development of small island developing States" (A/CONF.167/PC/L.5 and Add.1).

B. Preparations by the host Government

38. The Preparatory Committee considered agenda item 2 (b) at its 12th meeting, on 3 September. It heard a statement by the Minister for Environment, Housing and Lands of Barbados.

39. At the same meeting, the observers for the Caribbean Conservation Association and the Pacific Concerns Resource/Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific Movement, non-governmental organizations accredited to participate in the deliberations of the Preparatory Committee, made statements.

C. Reports from regional technical meetings

40. The Preparatory Committee considered agenda item 2 (c) at its 11th meeting, on 2 September. Introductory statements were made by the Sustainable Development Officer of the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPRED) and the Chief, Industry Technology, Environment and Tourism Section of the Caribbean Community.

D. Participation of non-governmental organizations in the preparatory process

41. The Preparatory Committee considered agenda item 2 (d) at its 6th meeting, on 31 August. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on participation of non-governmental organizations in the preparatory process (A/CONF.167/PC/L.4).

42. At the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee decided to endorse the accreditation of the non-governmental organizations listed in the note by the Secretariat.

E. Operations of the voluntary fund

43. The Preparatory Committee considered agenda item 2 (e) at its 12th meeting, on 3 September. The Director of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development made an introductory statement.

44. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Japan and Vanuatu (on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States).

Annex

AGENDA OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

2. Preparations for the first Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States on the basis of General Assembly resolution 47/189 and taking into account other relevant General Assembly resolutions:

   (a) Activities of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and other bodies of relevance to the preparatory process related to the sustainable development needs of small island developing States in the light of relevant recommendations of Agenda 21;

   (b) Preparations by the host Government;

   (c) Reports from regional technical meetings;

   (d) Participation of non-governmental organizations in the preparatory process;

   (e) Operations of the voluntary fund.

3. Consideration of plans and programmes to support the sustainable development of small island developing States and the utilization of their marine and coastal resources, which includes meeting essential human needs, maintaining biodiversity and improving the quality of life for island people, as well as measures that will enable small island developing States to cope effectively, creatively and in a sustainable manner with environmental changes and to mitigate the impacts on and reduce the threats posed to marine and coastal resources:

   (a) Overview of the special problems of small island developing States:

      (i) Current trends in the socio-economic development of small island developing States;

      (ii) Nature and magnitude of specific vulnerabilities of small island developing States, including specific indicators of vulnerability;

      (iii) Prospects for, constraints on and further options for sustainable development;

   (b) Priority areas for the sustainable development of small island developing States:

      (i) Management of environmental problems of small island developing States;

(ii) Management of the resources of small island developing States;

(iii) Capacity-building in small island developing states;

(c) Implementation, monitoring and review of the recommendations emerging from agenda items 3 (a) and (b) above:

(i) National implementation, including recommendations for national capacity-building;

(ii) Regional implementation, including review of relevant regional institutional arrangements and, where appropriate, recommendations for improvement;

(iii) International implementation.

4. Provisional agenda for the Conference.

5. Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee.